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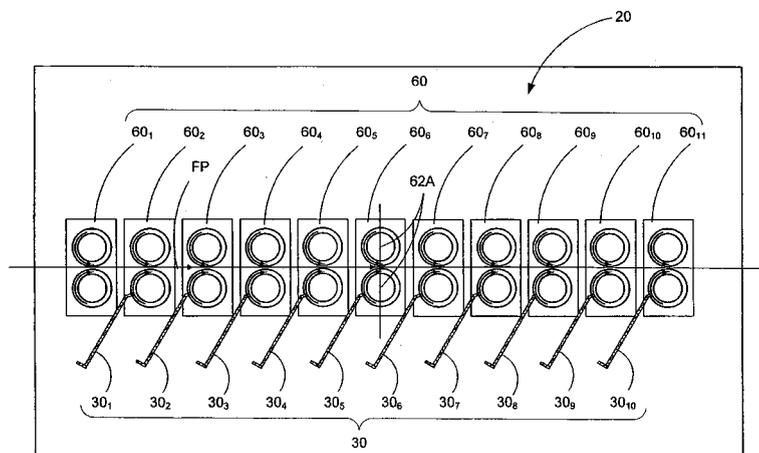
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(54) **Sheet/page buffer for sheet handling apparatus**

(57) A page buffer (20) for receiving and holding, in queue, pages prepared by a printer and subsequently processed by a mailpiece inserter. The page buffer (20) includes pairs (60<sub>1</sub> - 60<sub>11</sub>) of vertically-aligned rollers (60) defining a plurality of page stations therebetween. Each pair of rollers is spaced-apart and defines a nip for driving printed pages along a feed path (FP). Furthermore, each page station is defined by and between a first pair of rollers disposed downstream of an adjacent second pair of rollers. A drive means is also provided for independently driving the pairs (60<sub>1</sub> - 60<sub>11</sub>) of vertically-aligned

rollers. The drive means is controlled such that, in a first operating mode, the pairs cooperate to drive printed pages along the feed path (FP). In a second operating mode, the drive means is controlled such that at least one of the page stations causes its respective first pair of rollers to retain and hold a leading edge portion of a printed page while the adjacent second pair drives and releases a trailing edge portion of the printed page. The printed page is, therefore, held within the page station such that the trailing edge droops below the feed path in a predominantly vertical orientation.



**FIG. 3**

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number  
EP 08 01 4767

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (IPC)
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (IPC)
			B65H B07C
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search The Hague		Date of completion of the search 30 September 2011	Examiner Piekarski, Adam
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone                      Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category                      A : technological background                      O : non-written disclosure                      P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention                      E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date                      D : document cited in the application                      L : document cited for other reasons                      .....                      &amp; : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT  
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30-09-2011

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82